



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Hwy.
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: May 8, 2012

Contact: Dana M. Dierkes

Phone Number: (559) 565-3131 (desk) or (559) 679-2866 (cell)

Plan Ahead for Fun/Safe Memorial Day Holiday and Summer Visits to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Three Rivers, CA – Plan ahead for fun and safe Memorial Day holiday and summer visits to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. While the parks are open year-round, certain facilities and services are open only during the summertime. Before visiting, check the parks' website at www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341 for the latest updates.

Current updates include:

- **The following facilities and services have opened or will open soon in Sequoia National Park:**
 - From May 24-Sept. 9, free shuttles will operate inside Sequoia National Park. For more info, visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/parktransit.htm.
 - From May 24-Sept. 9, visitors may take a shuttle from Visalia, Exeter, or Three Rivers into Sequoia National Park for \$15 per person round-trip, including entrance fee. This shuttle connects to free in-park shuttles. For more info, visit www.sequoiashuttle.com.
 - Crescent Meadow/Moro Rock Road is open to Moro Rock, Crescent Meadow, Tunnel Log, Auto Log, etc. *NOTE: From May 24-Sept. 9, on weekends, holidays, and from July 2-6, Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road will be closed to passenger vehicles (except vehicles with disability placards) for hiker/walker safety and visitor shuttle traffic.*
 - Giant Forest Museum will open on May 11.
 - Crystal Cave tours open on May 12. For more info about various tours, visit www.sequoiahistory.org.
 - Additional camping in Lodgepole Campground will be open (weather-permitting) May 23-June 1.
 - Dorst Creek Campground is expected to open (weather-permitting) on June 22.
 - Various facilities at Mineral King will open soon (weather-permitting). The road to Mineral King and Atwell Mill Campground are expected to be open by 12 noon on May 24. The Mineral King Ranger Station will open on May 25. In addition, Cold Springs Campground will open on June 1.

- continued on page 2 -

- **Sequoia National Park's Visitor Center Hours:**
 - The Foothills Visitor Center is open daily from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. through May 25. Starting May 26, this visitor center will be open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.
 - The Lodgepole Visitor Center is open daily from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., with extended hours from May 12 - 24 from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Starting May 25, this center will be open 7 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.
 - The Giant Forest Museum is expected to reopen on May 11, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily. Starting May 25, the museum will be open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.
- **The following facilities and services have opened or will open soon in Kings Canyon National Park:**
 - Hwy. 180 to Cedar Grove (Roads End) is open.
 - Sentinel Campground in Cedar Grove is open.
 - Panoramic Point in Grant Grove is open.
 - The market, lodging, dining, and showers are expected to open in Cedar Grove on May 17.
 - By May 18, all campgrounds will be open (weather-permitting) in Cedar Grove and Grant Grove.
- **Kings Canyon National Park's Visitor Center Hours:**
 - The Kings Canyon Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily through May 24. Starting May 25, the visitor center will be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.
 - Cedar Grove Visitor Center will be open from May 25 through Labor Day from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.
- **Roads in the Parks:** To maximize your fun and minimize your delays, stop at a park visitor center, call 559-565-3341, or visit www.nps.gov/seki for assistance in planning your trip.
 - *If you plan to enter or exit Sequoia National Park on **weekends** from now through mid-August,* visitors will find maximum 20-minute delays along the Generals Highway between the entrance to Sequoia National Park (via Hwy. 198) and the Giant Forest, on the way to the General Sherman Tree. *On **weekdays** through May 20,* visitors will encounter 20-minute to 2-hour delays in the same area. *On **weekdays** starting May 21,* delays will be reduced to 20 minutes to 1 hour in length. Other road construction projects may involve short delays of 15 minutes or less in various locations in the parks.
 - **Vehicles longer than 22 feet (6.7 m) are prohibited between the entrance of Sequoia National Park (Hwy. 198) and Hospital Rock.** For vehicles towing trailers, the **combined length** must not exceed 22 feet. Longer vehicles must enter the parks via the Kings Canyon entrance via Hwy. 180.
 - For road construction schedules, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/seki/parknews/newsreleases.htm>.
 - Call for road conditions–559-565-3341 (press 1, 1, 1). Tire chains may be required at any time.
- **Campgrounds:** Visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm. *Wilderness permits are required for all overnight camping outside designated campgrounds–www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness_permits.htm.*
- **Fee-Free Day:** Entrance is free to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks on June 9 for Get Outdoors Day.